

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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R 121516Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2789

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN 1971 "COUP BY
MEMORANDUM"

1. MARKING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "COUP BY MEMORANDUM"
AGAINST PRIMIN DEMIREL, LEFTISTA NEWSPAPER POLITIKA BEGAN A
SERIES MARCH 12 CONCERNING THE EVENTS OF FIVE YEARS AGO. THE
FIRST ARTICLE OF THE SERIES CONTAINS EXCEPTS FROM AN ALLEGED
CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PUBLISHER OF POLITIKA, ISMAIL CEM,
AND FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL. IN THESE EXCERPTS, WHICH
ACCORDING O CEM WERE TAPE RECORDED WITH CAGLAYANGIL'S
PERMISSION, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SUGGESTS THE POSSIBILITY
OF CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE MARCH 12, 1971 EVENTS. CAGLAYANGIL
IS QUOTED AS SAYING THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR VISITED HIM
SHORTLY BEFORE MARCH 12 AND MADE A STATEMENT WHICH CAGLAYANGIL
SUBSEQUENTLY INTERPRETED AS AN INDICATION THAT CIA WAS
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INVOLVED IN THE MACH 12 INCIDENT. CAGALAYANGIL REPORTEDLY

SAID, "THERE CAN'T BE ANYTHING CLEARER THAN THIS. THERE IS CIA IN MARCH 12. THERE IS CIA TO A GREAT EXTENT. THERE IS OPIUM IN MARCH 12."

2. THE ARTICLE ALSO CONTAINS A QUOTATION ATTRIBUTED TO CAGLAYANGIL SAYING THAT THE U.S. DOESN'T CARE WHAT KIND OF GOVERNMENT A COUNTRY HAS. "AMERICA IS CONCERNED ONLY ABOUT HOW MUCH A COUNTRY ISDEPENDENT ON HER, TO WHAT EXTENT THAT COUNTRY WILL BE A SATELLITE IN ITS POLICY."

3. THE POLITIKA SERIES ON THE MARCH 12 EVENTS HAS BEEN ADVERTISED EXTENSIVELY DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS. FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL, UPON HIS RETURN TO TURKEY FROM BULGARIA THE EVENING OF MARCH 11, TOLD NEWSMEN AT THE AIRPORT THAT HE HAD NEVER GIVEN A STATEMENT TO CEM ON THE SUBJECT OF MARCH 12. CAGLAYANGIL EXPLAINED THAT SLIGHTLY MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO, CEM HAD APPROACHED HIM SAYING HE WAS GOING TO WRITE A BOOK ABOUT THE MARCH 12 "COUP BY MEMORANDUM" AND ASKING THAT CAGLAYANGIL PROVIDE HIM WITH SOME INFORMATION. CAGLAYANGIL SAID HE AGREED TO DISCUSS THE EVENT ON A BACKGROUND BASIS, AND IN RETURN CEM AGREED THAT ANY INFORMATION HE USED IN THE BOOK WOULD BE CLEARED IN ADVANCE BY CAGLAYANGIL. CAGLAYANGIL SAID THAT THEY TALKED FOR SEVERAL HOURS AND THAT JUST A FEW DAYS AFTER THEIR DISCUSSION, CEM WAS APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF TURKISH RADIO AND TELEVISION (TRT). SINCE THAT DATE, CAGLAYANGIL SAID HE HAD NOT HEARD OF OR SEEN ANYTHING MORE ABOUT THE INTERVIEW. HE SAID CEM HAD NOT CLEARED ANYTHING WITH HIM AND THEREFORE ANYTHING THAT WAS PRINTED CONCERNING THEIR CONVERSATION WAS COMPLETELY UNETHICAL. CAGLAYANGIL CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT JOURNALISTS WILL BE THE DEATH OF JOURNALISM.

4. COMMENT: THE QUOTES CONTAINED IN THE ARTICLE HAVE A RING OF AUTHENTICITY. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY DO NOT APPEAR TO BE THE KIND OF THING THAT A FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER, EVEN ONE WHO DID NOT EXPECT TO RETURN TO POWER, WOULD MAKE FOR PUBLICATION. WE SUSPECT THAT CAGLAYANGIL IN FACT DID GIVE A RAMBLING INTERVIEW TO CEM FOR THE LATTER'S USE ON A BACKGROUND BASIS. SINCE CEM DID NOT WRITE HIS BOOK THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERVIEW MIGHT WELL HAVE REMAINED UNPUBLISHED HAD CEM NOT BEGUN PUBLISHING AN OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER AND CAGLAYANGIL NOT BECOME FOREIGN MINISTER AGAIN. MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REFORM, INTERVENTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ANKARA01985
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760095-0570
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760369/aaaacidp.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 FEB 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGATIONS OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN 1971 "COUP BY MEMORANDUM"
TAGS: PINT, TU, US, CIA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006